INTERIM LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY SYSTEM
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

GLOSSARY

Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Component

Emergent Wetland - The Emergent Wetland Class is characterized by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes, excluding mosses and lichens. This vegetation is present for most of the growing season in most years. There wetlands are usually dominated by perennial plants. All water regimes are included except subtidal and irregularly exposed.

Estuarine System - The Estuarine System consists of deepwater tidal habitats and adjacent tidal wetlands that are usually semi-enclosed by land but have open, partly obstructed, or sporadic access to the open ocean, and in which ocean water is at least occasionally diluted by fresh-water runoff from the land. The salinity may be periodically increased above that of the open ocean by evaporation. Along some low-energy coastlines there is appreciable dilution of sea water. Offshore areas with typical estuarine plants and animals, such as red mangroves and eastern oysters, are also included in the Estuarine System.

Forested Wetland - The Class Forested Wetland is characterized by woody vegetation that is 6 m tall or taller. All water regimes are included except subtidal.

Lacustrine System - The Lacustrine System includes wetlands and deepwater habitats will all of the following characteristics: (1) situated in a topographic depression or a dammed river channel; (2) lacking trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens with greater than 30% areal coverage; and (3) total area exceeds 20 acres. Similar wetland and deepwater habitats totaling less than 20 acres are also included in the Lacustrine System if an active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline feature makes up all or part of the boundary, or if the water depth in the deepest part of the basin exceed 2 meters at low water. Lacustrine waters may be tidal or nontidal, but ocean-derived is always less than 0.5 %.

Marine System - The Marine System consists of the open ocean overlying the continental shelf and its associated high-energy coastline. Marine habitats are exposed to the waves and currents of the open ocean and the water regimes are determined primarily by the ebb and flow of oceanic tides. Salinities exceed 30 parts thousand, with little or no dilution except outside the mouths of estuaries. Shallow coastal indentations or bays without appreciable fresh water inflow, and coasts with exposed rocky islands that provide the mainland with little or no shelter from wind

and waves, are also considered part of the Marine System because they generally support typical marine biota.

Palustrine System - The Palustrine System includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean derived salts is below 0.5%. It also includes wetlands lacking such vegetation, but with all of the following four characteristics: (1) area less than 20 acres; (2) active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline features lacking; (3) water depth in the deepest part of basin less than 2 m at low water: and (4) salinity due to ocean-derived salts less than 0.5%.

Scrub-Shrub Wetland - The Class Scrub-Shrub Wetland includes areas dominated by woody vegetation less that 6 m (20 feet) tall. The species include true shrubs, young trees, and trees or shrubs that are small or stunted because of environmental conditions. All water regimes except subtidal are included..

Tidal - The water regimes are largely determined by oceanic tides.

Bird Conservation Component

North American population - Breeding population in Canada, the United States (including Hawaii and Puerto Rico) and Mexico for each species of migratory birds.

Ecosystem Conservation Component

Landscape Conservation - Landscape-level conservation is an approach to maintaining or restoring the composition, structure, and function of natural and modified ecosystems for the goal of long-term sustainability. It is based on a collaboratively developed vision of desired future conditions that integrates ecological, socio-economic, and institutional perspectives, applied within a geographic framework defined primarily by natural ecological boundaries. (Meffe and Carroll, 1997).

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